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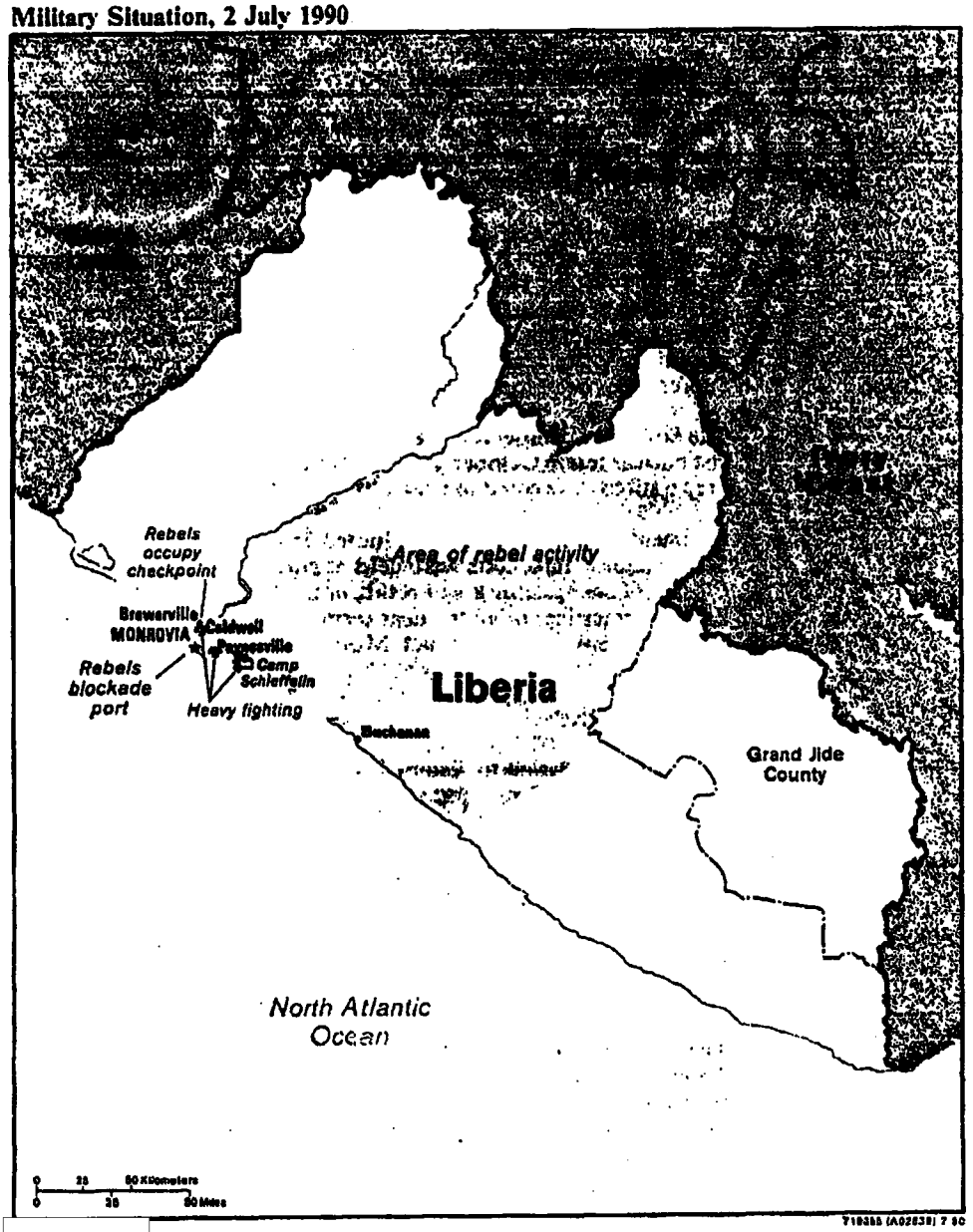
Military Situation, 2 July 1990



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LIBERIA: **Beginning of the End**

The rebels apparently have abandoned attempts to gain President Doe's departure through peace talks and are advancing on Monrovia to help speed him on his way. [redacted] (b)(3)

The rebels have attacked a number of towns on the outskirts of Monrovia, including Camp Schieffelin, Paynesville, and Caldwell, [redacted] Rebel troops reportedly were executing Krahn and Mandingo civilians in the Paynesville area. The rebels now occupy the Brewerville military checkpoint on the road leading to Sierra Leone. They also have blockaded the port of Monrovia with armed trawlers, convincing the Liberian Coast Guard it would not be in its interests to offer resistance. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

Army Chief of Staff Dubar already has left Liberia, [redacted] and Executive Mansion Guard Commander Julue and most other high-ranking Krahn officers also have made plans to leave as soon as possible. The capital remains without water or electricity, and [redacted] army soldiers continue their nocturnal activities of looting, stealing, and random shooting. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

[redacted] Doe would be willing to resign if he is satisfied with the composition of the interim government and is given sufficient guarantees for his safety and that of his followers. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3) (b)(1)

Comment: Rebel leader Charles Taylor probably hopes that by surrounding the capital he can convince Doe it is time to go. The dire situation in Monrovia caused by the lack of electricity and water and the imminent departure of Doe's most loyal officers almost certainly have persuaded him to consider leaving. [redacted] (b)(3)

Even if Doe resigns, bloodshed is likely in the capital. Taylor is likely to have little control over his troops, which probably will continue to engage in atrocities against Krahns and Mandingos as well as random killing and looting. If the rebels do not leave the road to Sierra Leone open to allow remaining Krahns to leave as the rebels enter Monrovia, the magnitude of the massacre is likely to increase substantially. [redacted] (b)(3)

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